

VZCZCXRO9537
OO RUEHPB RUEHPT
DE RUEHBY #0593 1770704
ZNR UUUUU ZZH
O 260704Z JUN 09
FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1688
INFO RUEHBK/AMEMBASSY BANGKOK 2130
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 9512
RUEHHI/AMEMBASSY HANOI 1871
RUEHJA/AMEMBASSY JAKARTA 5470
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 2593
RUEHPB/AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY 2015
RUEHUL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 9832
RUEHGP/AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE 1751
RUEHSV/AMEMBASSY SUVA 1557
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 3588
RUEHWL/AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON 0022
RUEHBN/AMCONSUL MELBOURNE 6461
RUEHPT/AMCONSUL PERTH 4725
RUEHDN/AMCONSUL SYDNEY 4694
RUEAHL/DEPT OF HOMELAND SECURITY CENTER WASHINGTON DC
RHEHAAA/THE WHITE HOUSE WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM

UNCLAS CANBERRA 000593

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE FOR OES/IHB, AIAG FOR WINN; STATE
PLEASE PASS DHHS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [KFLU](#) [AEMR](#) [ASEC](#) [CASC](#) [KFLO](#) [TBIO](#) [KSAF](#) [KPAO](#) [PREL](#)
PINR, AMGT, MG, AS
SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA H1N1 SITREP JUNE 26, 2009

REF: A. SECSTATE 42324
 1B. SECSTATE 41745
 1C. CANBERRA 415
 1D. CANBERRA 419
 1E. CANBERRA 518
 1F. CANBERRA 570
 1G. CANBERRA 464

1. (SBU) The following is the latest SITREP covering
Australia's response to the H1N1 outbreak.

2. (SBU) Government Response: Australia remains in its
"Protect" posture (ref F) despite continued growth in case
numbers. The first confirmed deaths in Australia are all
still considered to be in health-compromised individuals.
According to National Incident Room (NIR) director Gary Lum,
Australian health authorities continue to watch carefully the
course of H1N1 in other countries, including Argentina, where
death tolls have risen in the Southern winter. The
Department of Health and Ageing is keeping a close watch on
how provision of medical treatment from the national medical
stockpile to vulnerable populations may affect overall
readiness in the event of a next wave or increase in
lethality. Health authorities are using the recent slowdown
in new cases to regroup and prepare for a potential second
wave. The Australian Health Protection Committee will meet
next week to consider additional measures, and begin planning
for lessons-learned reporting and analysis. The NIR will
reduce hours to ten-hour days with on-call support starting
next week. The newly-created "Protect Phase" is being
drafted into a revised Australian Health Management Plan for
Pandemic Influenza (AHMPPI) as an Annex, which was added on
June 17. The GOA has placed its first order with vaccine
manufacturer CSL Ltd. for H1N1 Influenza A vaccine, which is
expected to be ready within three months. The GOA is
concerned that Indigenous Australians are more likely to
contract severe cases of H1N1. Increased vulnerability in
isolated but travel-dependent communities is also associated
with the poor state of aborigine and Torres Straits Islander
health (ref H). All Indigenous Australians are now

classified as vulnerable for treatment and management purposes under the new "Protect" response phase (ref F), and Australia is actively seeking information on H1N1 impacts and preparedness in indigenous communities in Canada and the U.S.

¶3. (SBU) Case Count: Since the outbreak of H1N1, Australia has confirmed 3409 H1N1 infection. 197 cases have required hospitalization. 49 cases are currently hospitalized with 18 in intensive care. There have been 4 deaths due to H1N1. All deaths have had chronic illnesses.

¶4. (SBU) Post Actions: Post notified the Embassy community via management notice of these changes, and advice from the Australian health authorities, on June 18.

¶5. (SBU) Consular Issues: As of June 26, there are no reported consular issues involving H1N1.

CLUNE